

Appl. No. 10/693,253
Amdt. dated April 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-9, 13, 14, 16-20, 23-26, and 28-32 will be pending in this application and presented for examination. Claims 1, 10-12, 15, 21, 22, 27, 33, and 34 were canceled. Claims 2, 7, 13, 14, 23, 24, 28, and 29 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-9, 13, 14, 16-20, 23-26, and 28-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 2, 7, 13, 14, 23, 24, 28, and 29 have been rewritten in independent form, so that none of claims 2-9, 13, 14, 16-20, 23-26, and 28-32 depends upon a rejected base claim. Additionally, Applicants have corrected a typographical error for claim 2.

Hence Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-9, 13, 14, 16-20, 23-26, and 28-32 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,701). Additionally, claims 1, 10-12, 15, 21, 22, 27 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bertrand (U.S. Patent No. 5,150,410) in view of Tian. Applicants respectfully traverse all of the Examiner's rejections.

In order to expedite prosecution of the above identified application, Applicants have canceled all of these canceled claims 1, 10-12, 15, 21, 22, 27, 33 and 34 without prejudice in any manner.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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